

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

29 MARCH 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

Cuba

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1. Cuban exile
raids

a. [redacted]
[redacted] refugee groups are planning further raids within the next week or two. They will hit Soviet shipping if they can.

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d. The Cubans have put special security measures into effect at the port of Mariel. A Soviet ship, carrying explosives for blasting operations, put in there [redacted].

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e. Most indications are that the L-66 group, an offshoot of Alpha-66, carried out Wednesday's attack on the Baku. [redacted]

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h. The Soviets have sent a formal protest on the Baku incident to our Embassy in Moscow.

2. Soviet forces in Cuba

a. Readout from yesterday's reconnaissance missions reveals that the four tank-like vehicles which were shown to have been removed from their places at the Holguin camp on 25 March have since been returned.

3. Change in Soviet military command

a. The firing of Marshal Zakharov as Chief of the General Staff has been confirmed by the Soviet press. Characteristically, the Soviet press reveals the change merely by identifying a new man in the job.

b. We think it likely that Zakharov and probably other members of the military hierarchy as well have not been seeing eye-to-eye with the party leadership on the shaping of military policy.

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c. Within the military establishment itself there has been long and earnest debate over the question of balance-of-forces. This would inevitably at some point cut across the question of budget allocation.

d. The party only recently issued a stern reminder that it, not the military, would call the policy tune. The admonition publicized in the journal which speaks for the political apparatus of the armed forces, said that "only the party...is able to cope with the defense of our fatherland, and with military affairs in general."

e. The new chief of staff, Marshal Biryuzov, has been commander of Soviet Rocket Forces. This fact may provide the answer as to how the balance-of-forces discussion has ended.

4. Syria-UAR

a. The Syrian Ambassador to the US, recently back from Damascus, has given State in confidence a pessimistic forecast on the prospects for his government's holding out against Nasirist pressure.

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b. He states that the Baath party has lost ground heavily, and the army is now dominated by officers sympathetic to Nasir.

c. The Baathists, the Ambassador believes, have no choice but to come to terms with Nasir whose aim is to gain full control of Syrian foreign policy and defense.

5. South Korea

a. Ambassador Berger held a long session with General Pak yesterday to discuss ways out of the political impasse.

b. Pak said that behind-the-scenes discussions between the government and members of the civilian opposition are in progress. Berger believes, however, that Pak is more interested in developing a split in the civilian front than in reaching a workable agreement on means to restore representative government.

c. Civilian leaders, for their part, show signs of wanting the present stalemate to continue in the expectation that the military junta will collapse before long under the pressure of US disapproval.

6. Latin America

a. The Czechs seem to be running interference in a Bloc effort at deeper economic penetration in Latin America.

b. A Czech negotiating team in La Paz is described as working "day and night" to secure a Bolivian go-ahead for the construction of a showpiece antimony smelter.

c. In Brazil, the Czechs are on the verge of raising their commercial mission in Recife to consular status. Other Bloc representatives have been beating a steady path to the area since the installation of a pro-Communist State governor in January.

7. Saudi Arabia

a. Dissatisfaction with the Saudi regime has cropped out into the open in the northern region of the country.

b. Disturbances, arising from demands for free land distribution, occurred in the town of Hail earlier this week.

c. The outbreak was halted only after several planeloads of troops [redacted] fired on the demonstrators, wounding several persons.

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8. Test-ban
negotiations

a. The Soviet delegation has indicated that it intends to turn down the compromise proposal on on-site inspection drafted by the nonaligned group.

b. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the proposal--calling for 31-35 inspections over a period of seven years--would allow the US to use up a large number of inspections during the first year and then "dump" the treaty.

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NOTES

- A. Israel-Syria Tension is again rising in the demilitarized zone along the Israeli-Syrian border. Syrian troops have fired on Israelis engaged in planting trees in disputed territory. Israeli fishing operations close to the Syrian shore of Lake Tiberias may provoke further incidents.
- B. Turkey The rearrest of ex-President Bayar has failed to pacify restless students who have again demonstrated in Ankara against the Inonu government.
- C. France-Mexico The French are holding out to the visiting Lopez Mateos an offer of a \$150 million line of credit. The Mexicans have given tentative agreement. Specific French projects under the credit are to be worked out subsequently, but it is understood that there will be heavy emphasis on the petrochemical field.
- D. Venezuela Guerrillas operating in western Venezuela, near important oil installations, are so far frustrating the government's two-month-old efforts to eliminate them.
- E. Soviet space vehicle Cosmos 13, the satellite launched on 21 March, was recovered earlier this morning while on its 127th orbit.

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F. Guatemala The Guatemalan air force [redacted] patrol all border areas to prevent the entry of "unauthorized" flights. [redacted]

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G. Brazil Governor Lacerda is making his ban on the holding of the pro-Castro rally in Rio de Janeiro stick. The meeting is continuing in rather pallid fashion in an adjoining town just outside Lacerda's jurisdiction.

H. Canada As the election campaigns enters its final stages our Embassy in Ottawa hazards the prediction that no party will achieve a parliamentary majority but that the Liberals will gain a plurality.

DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

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